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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,835	11/20/2001	Herve Perron	110631	1488
7590	08/05/2004		EXAMINER	
Oliff & Berridge PO Box 19928 Alexandria, VA 22320			EWOLDT, GERALD R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1644	

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

94.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/936,835	PERRON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	G. R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.	1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-74 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.
2. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

I. Claims 1-13, 18-22, and 32-40, drawn to a method for detecting superantigen activity comprising the characterization of V β 16 and/or V β 17 bearing lymphocytes.

II. Claims 14-17, drawn to a method for detecting a pathological condition or a predisposition to a pathological condition.

III. Claims 23-24, drawn to a human retrovirus.

IV. Claims 25-27 and 31, drawn to a nucleic acid molecule and a vector.

V. Claims 28-30, drawn to a polypeptide.

VI. Claims 41-52, drawn to a method for evaluating the effectiveness of an agent or of a composition in inhibiting superantigen activity.

VII. Claims 53-71, drawn to a composition capable of inhibiting superantigen activity.

VIII. Claim 72, drawn to the use of a composition capable of inhibiting superantigen activity.

IX. Claim 73, drawn to a method of identifying substances capable of blocking the transcription and/or translation of a human retrovirus.

X. Claim 74, drawn to a kit for screening substances capable of blocking the superantigen activity of a retrovirus.

3. The inventions listed do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Estquier et al (1995) teaches that HIV is characterized by increased IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-10, and IFN γ production, as well as CD4+ T cell apoptosis (see particularly Summary).

Accordingly, the teachings render obvious a method of detecting a pathological condition (HIV) demonstrated by stimulation of the production of cytokines or induction of cellular apoptosis, as recited in Claim 14.

Since Applicant's inventions do not contribute a special technical feature when viewed over the prior art they do not have single general inventive concept and lack unity of invention.

4. Accordingly, Groups I-X are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept and restriction is proper.

5. Should Applicant elect Group VII or VIII, Applicant is further required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a **specific** composition for therapeutic and/or prophylactic use, and list all Claims readable thereon including those subsequently added. Currently all claims are generic.

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Gerald Ewoldt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0843. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841.

8. **Please Note:** Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Inquiries of a general nature may also be directed to the Technology Center 1600 Receptionist at (571) 272-1600.

G.R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600


8/2/04
G.R. EWOLDT, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER